

REMARKS

Initially, applicant would like to once again thank the Examiner for the courteous and helpful telephonic interviews he has conducted with applicant's undersigned representative. During such interviews, substantial efforts were made to come to some agreement for placing the application in condition for allowance, although no such agreement was ever finally reached.

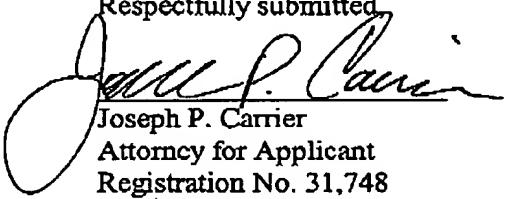
Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims in the application the claims in the application are claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-24, of which claims 1, 9, 18 and 19 are independent.

Independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 19 are further amended by the present amendment to overcome the rejections of record under 35 USC 101 and 112, and to place the claims in better form for appeal.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

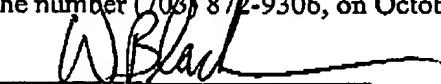
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Art Unit 3618 of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at the number (703) 872-9306, on October 20, 2003.

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